

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PC-10 SSO-00 SS-20 L-03 EUR-25 IGA-02

SY-04 DRC-01 RSC-01 /085 W

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O 221125Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0007

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 1598

JOINT STATE-PEACE CORPS MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER, PINS, SL

SUBJECT: REPORTED ARREST FSL EMPLOYEE VICTOR WILLIAMS

1. WIFE OF FSL VICTOR WILLIAMS, SIERRA LEONEAN NATIONAL, STATE EMPLOYEE ON LOAN PEACE CORPS AS CASHIER, SENT WORD TO PEACE CORPS OFFICE AUG. 22 THAT WILLIAMS PICKED UP EVENING AUG. 21 BY SIERRA LEONE POLICE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION. REASON FOR ARREST NOT CLEAR BUT IMPLICATION OF WIFE'S MESSAGE IS THAT IT MAY HAVE BEEN IN CONNECTION WITH CONTINUING GOSL INVESTIGATION OF PLOT BEHIND JULY 30 BOMBING OF RESIDENCE MINFIN (SEE FREETOWN 1596 AND PREVIOUS).

2. IN VIEW EXTREME GOSL SENSITIVITY TO BOMB PLOT, WHICH GOSL BELIEVES INVOLVED ATTEMPTED COUP, EMBASSY/PEACE CORPS NOT AT PRESENT TIME PLANNING MAKE ANY INQUIRIES OF GOSL AUTHORITIES ABOUT STATUS OF WILLIAMS OR ANY ATTEMPT CONTACT HIM. GOSL ALREADY APPEARS HAVE ERRONEOUS SUSPICIONS OF USG PERIPHERAL INVOLVEMENT DUE FACT TWO PERSONS OUT OF APPROXIMATELY 40 UNDER DETENTION IN CONNECTION PLOT WERE FORMERLY EMBASSY EMPLOYEES, ONE IN EMBASSY GUARD FORCE, SECOND AS B&F LOCAL. FORTUNATELY, BOTH LEFT EMBASSY EMPLOYMENT APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH BEFORE BOMBING AS RESULT SACKING AND REDUCTION IN FORCE, RESPECTIVELY. GOSL ALSO INVOLVED AT PRESENT TIME

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IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE COMPLETE REVIEW OF PROGRAMS WHICH

BRING FOREIGN VOLUNTEERS INTO COUNTRY, I.E., PEACE CORPS, BRITISH VSO AND CANADIAN CUSO PROGRAMS, ALTHOUGH PURPOSE AND AUTHORSHIP OF THIS REVIEW NOT YET FULLY CLEAR AND GOSL AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT MADE ANY INQUIRIES BRITISH, CANADIANS AND OURSELVES EXCEPT FOR LISTING OF NUMBERS AND NAMES OF ALL VOLUNTEERS IN COUNTRY SINCE 1971. EMBASSY HAS NO REASON BELIEVE AND INDEED DOUBTS THAT PLOT INVESTIGATION AND REVIEW FOREIGN VOLUNTEER STATUS ARE CONNECTED, BUT BOTH AFFECT GOSL DEGREE OF SUSPICION AT PRESENT TIME OF ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGNERS IN COUNTRY.

3. MISSION REQUESTING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FROM RB&FO ABIDJAN SEPTEL TO PERMIT CONTINUED PC CASHIER OPERATIONS.

4. EMBASSY PLANNING NO FURTHER ACTION AT THIS TIME BUT WILL REPORT IMMEDIATELY ANY ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENTS.

5. REQUEST DEPT (AF/W) INFORM AMBASSADOR OLSON IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS ARRIVAL, ESTIMATED EVENING AUG. 22.

6. FOR PC/W: LETTER FOLLOWS.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOMBING, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba2
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974FREETO01598
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740231-0905
From: FREETOWN JOINT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740827/aaaaawya.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba2
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 29 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 AUG 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by boyleja>; APPROVED <08 JUN 2005 by powellba2>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED ARREST FSL EMPLOYEE VICTOR WILLIAMS
TAGS: APER, PINS, (WILLIAMS, VICTOR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005